

February 4, 2004

Mr. Rodney McInnis
Southwest Regional Administrator
NOAA Fisheries
501 Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear Mr. McInnis:

**SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR LISTING OF THREATENED OR ENDANGERED SPECIES
NEAR THE SAN ONOFRE NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION FACILITY**

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is currently reviewing the status of issues regarding the Endangered Species Act (ESA) at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station (SONGS) located in northwestern San Diego County, approximately 3 miles southeast of San Clemente, CA. We understand that more than two dozen individuals of several species of threatened or endangered sea turtles have been recovered from the cooling water intake system since 1983 and it is likely, therefore, that the NRC will be entering into formal consultation under Section 7 of the ESA for sea turtles.

The NRC is interested in examining the effects that the SONGS facility may be having on sea turtles and any other threatened or endangered species that may be in the vicinity of the site. Therefore, we request a listing of all endangered, threatened, proposed, or candidate species that are under NOAA Fisheries jurisdiction and that may be present near the SONGS facility. Upon receipt of this list, the NRC intends to evaluate the potential for adverse impacts to each of these species due to continued operation of the SONGS facility and prepare a Biological Assessment, if necessary, for those species that may be affected by continued operation of SONGS.

If you have any questions regarding this request or need additional information, please contact James Wilson at (301) 415-1108.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Pao-Tsin Kuo, Program Director
License Renewal and Environmental Impacts
Division of Regulatory Improvement Programs
Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation

Docket Nos. 50-361 and 50-362

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